

VICTUAL VIGNETTE (or AFTER SUCH PORRIDGE, WHAT FORGIVENESS?)

Appreciating the amount of planning and labor that goes into such a banquet as our Thanksgiving dinner, we decided to drop in on the kitchen in order to find out more about the people who make all our fine meals possible.

Malrey Few, Cornelia and George Williams, and Nat Lytle, chefs par excellence, comprise the cooking staff of BMC.

Malrey has lived most of her life in these parts, having been born and raised in Swannanoa. Her first real job came at the age of twelve when she spent a summer working as a nurse in a private home. Most of her teen age years were spent helping around her home, and enjoying the company of a neighbor boy, Alvin Few, whom she married when he came back from the army in 1922.

Always having been interested in home economics, Malrey became associated with the Home Demonstrating Agents, which she says was something like the 4-H Club, in that much of the work consisted in helping housewives solve their cooking and domestic problems by demonstrating more efficient methods of housekeeping. She learned a great deal in these four summers with the HDA, and her interest was so stimulated that she decided to make cooking a career. Shortly after the College moved over from Blue Ridge to Lake Eden, she joined the BMC Community as part of the kitchen staff, doing work in the dining hall. Malrey did some cooking in the next year, and became a full-time cook in 1944. "I'd rather do cooking than anything else," she said. When she isn't in the kitchen, Malrey can be found at home studying cook books or listening for new recipes on the radio.

Last summer she enjoyed her first vacation away from home when she spent two weeks in New York City with her husband, her daughter, and grandson, little Alvin Charles. When asked how she enjoyed her present position, she replied: "I really enjoy working here at the College--if I didn't, I wouldn't have stayed."

In 1927, our capable Cornelia traveled from her home in Anderson, South Carolina, to pay a visit to her sister in Asheville. She liked the climate around here and decided to stay, and soon afterwards began work at Highland Hospital as assistant dietitian. It was here that she met genial George Williams, whom she married after a five year's courtship in the kitchen.

Outside of her work, Cornelia's interest lies in music, and she spends most of her spare time practising the piano, and singing popular song hits. Her current favorite is "Rumors are Flying."

George, who calls Aikens, South Carolina, his home town, has held interesting jobs. Following his school years in Asheville, he worked for the S&W Cafeteria awhile, then drove a taxicab in the city for seven years. Tiring of this somewhat sedentary occupation, George became a chef at Highland Hospital. Both George and Cornelia joined the College staff in 1944.

Nat Lytle is a native of Black Mountain, and spent his early school years both in Asheville and Black Mountain. In 1933 and the following year he spent two summers doing odd jobs and some cooking for the College at Blue Ridge. He joined the CCC Camp in 1935, spending a year, after which he rejoined the College for another two years. Having always been interested in sports, Nat decided to try his hand in the boxing ring. He spent the summer of 1939 in New York, and not caring much for life in the city he returned to the college in the fall.